

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph starting at page 3, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The apparatus ~~of the species~~ according to the present invention achieves the aforesaid object ~~by way of the features of Claim 1~~. According to an embodiment of the present invention the latter, an apparatus ~~of this kind~~ is characterized in that the coding device is embodied in such a way that, on the one hand, the two detectors detect coding means simultaneously when the receiving device is located in a retention position; and, on the other hand, only one of the two detectors detects coding means when the receiving device is located in a region between two adjacent retention positions.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 9, line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The situation discussed below is one that in which the retaining device has a so-called “capture region” which ensures that the receiving device is positioned and retained, substantially as a result of the retaining device, when the receiving device approaches sufficiently close to the retention position that it comes into the capture region of the retaining device. ~~This is the case, for example, for the retaining device according to Claim 9.~~—The coding device could, for example, be embodied in such a way that there is provided in each retention position of the receiving device, at the points of the coding device detected by the detectors, a coding means which has an effective width B that is less than or equal to width E of the capture region of the retaining device. The two detectors thus detect the corresponding coding means when the receiving device is located in the capture region of a retention position but has not yet finally assumed that position. This is not disadvantageous, however, since, in this case, the retaining device itself performs the remaining fine positioning of the receiving device as a result of its particular configuration. A corresponding evaluation of the detected signals of the two detectors can, however, take into account this locking behavior of the receiving device.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 14, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In terms of method, the object cited above is achieved by ~~the features of Claim 20.~~ According to this, a method ~~wherein of the species is characterized in that~~ the coding device is embodied in such a way that, on the one hand, the two detectors detect coding means simultaneously when the receiving device is located in a retention position; and, on the other hand, only one of the two detectors detects coding means when the receiving device is located in a region between two adjacent retention positions.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 14, line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The method according to the present invention is suitable in particular for operation of ~~the an-apparatus of the present invention according to one of Claims 1 through 19,~~ and the reader is therefore referred to the preceding portion of the specification in order to avoid repetition.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 15, line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

There are various ways of advantageously embodying and developing the teaching of the present invention. The reader is referred for that purpose, on the one hand, to the claims subordinate to ~~Claim 1~~, and, on the other hand, to the explanation below of the preferred exemplary embodiments of the invention with reference to the drawings. In conjunction with the explanation of the preferred exemplary embodiments of the invention with reference to the drawings, an explanation is also given of generally preferred embodiments and developments of the teaching. In the drawings:

Please replace the Abstract with the attached amended Abstract.